



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TEXAS MAN CONVICTED OF ENTICING TWO GIRLS FOR SEX

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Texas man was convicted in federal court today on charges related to enticing two minors over the Internet for illicit sex.

John T. Spurlock, 49, of Tyler, Texas, was found guilty on all seven counts of a Feb. 9, 2005, federal indictment, following a bench trial that began this morning before U.S. District Judge Gary A. Fenner.

“Using undercover agents is a preemptive strike against child predators,” Graves said. “Our goal is to prevent them from trolling the Internet in search of more victims, which protects real children from being victimized in the future.”

On Jan. 20, 2005, an undercover FBI officer entered an Internet chat room posing as the mother of two daughters (10-year-old Mandy and 13-year-old Amber) and an 8-year-old boy. **Spurlock** contacted the undercover officer and expressed an interest in having sex with the mother and daughters. **Spurlock** also masturbated on his Web cam and transmitted real-time images to what he thought were underage girls, but in reality was the same undercover officer.

Spurlock was arrested by federal law enforcement officers at a Kansas City motel on Feb. 5, 2005, after he drove from Tyler to Kansas City to meet the mother and daughters at a motel room for sex. Officers found condoms, lubricant, a six-pack of beer, a DVD player and x-rated videos in his vehicle.

Spurlock was found guilty of three counts of using the Internet to attempt to entice a minor to engage in illicit sexual activity, including one count for attempting to persuade the mother to allow him to teach her daughters about sex and one count for online conversations with each of the daughters. **Spurlock** was also found guilty of two counts of attempting to transfer obscene material to a minor (the Web cam images to each of the girls), and one count of traveling

across state lines to attempt to engage in a sexual act with a minor. **Spurlock** was also convicted of a forfeiture count, which would require him to forfeit to the government any property used to commit the violations, including a desktop computer, a Web cam and a cell phone.

Under federal statutes, **Spurlock** could be subject to a mandatory minimum sentence of 15 years in federal prison without parole, up to 100 years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$250,000. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Katharine Fincham. It was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow